This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented)   A method for tracking files contained on a storage medium, the method comprising:

determining that the storage medium has not been assigned a first label and a second label, the first label uniquely identifying the storage medium;

writing the first label to a storage portion of the storage medium;

providing a command to generate the second label based on the first label, the second label to be associated with an external portion of the storage medium;

updating a database with an association between each file stored on the storage medium and a value associated with the first label; and

in response to determining that a first file contained on the storage medium has been deleted, updating the database to reflect that the first file has been deleted.

2. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the database is stored on a first device, further comprising:

synchronizing the database with a second database stored on a second device.

3. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 2, wherein the first device is a personal computer and the second device is a handheld device.

4. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 3, wherein the second device is an untethered handheld device.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the second label is a bar code label.

7. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising: determining the first label based on state information accessible to a device upon which the database is stored.

8. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 7, wherein the state information is a count sequence.

9. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the database includes records, each record including a first field having a value associated with the first label, and a second field having a value associated with a file stored on the storage medium.

10. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
accepting information read from a label associated with the storage medium without reading the storage medium;
converting the accepted information into a database key;
requesting records from a database instance using the database key;
accepting records in response to the request; and
rendering information about the accepted records.

11. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 10, wherein the second label is a bar code and wherein the information read from the second label is accepted from a bar code scanner.

12. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 10, wherein the information about the accepted records rendered includes file names.

13. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 12, wherein the accepted information read from the second label is read by a handheld device, and the information about the accepted records is rendered on the handheld device.

14. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 13, wherein the read label is
converted into a database key by the handheld device, the records are requested from a database
instance using the database key by the handheld device, and the records are accepted in response
to the request by the handheld device.

15. (Currently Amended)   A method for matching file parameters with one or more
external storage media, each of the one or more storage media having an associated label, the
method comprising:

accepting at least one search parameter from a set, the set comprising: file size, file
author, and file type;

generating a query based on the search parameters;

accepting a record returned in response to the query generated;

determining a <u>first</u> label corresponding to the record; and

determining an external storage medium, the <u>first</u> label being affixed to an external
portion of the external storage medium, the first label being based on a second label, the second
label being stored on a storage portion of the external storage medium.

16. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 15, wherein the <u>first</u> label is a
machine-readable label, the method further comprising:

accepting information read from the machine-readable label; and

 determining that the accepted information read from the machine-readable label matches
information associated with the record; and

generating a first indicator, said first indicator able to be perceived by humans.

17. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 16, further comprising:

determining that the accepted information read from the machine-readable label does not
match information associated with the record; and

generating a second indicator, said second indicator able to be perceived by humans.

18. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 17, wherein the first indicator is a first audible sound, and the second indicator is a second audible sound.

19. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 15, wherein the <u>first</u> label includes a human-readable part, and wherein information associated with the record corresponds to the human-readable part of the <u>first</u> label.

20. (Previously presented)   An apparatus for tracking files contained on a removable storage medium, the apparatus comprising:

means for reading files from and/or writing files to a removable storage medium;

means for generating a label;

means for determining that the removable storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label, the unique volume label uniquely identifying the removable storage medium;

means for instructing the means for reading and/or writing files to write the unique volume label onto an external portion of the storage medium;

means for providing a command to generate the unique storage medium label to the means for generating a label;

a database, wherein the database contains an association between each file stored on the removable storage medium and a value associated with the unique volume label; and

means for, in response to determining that a first file on the removable storage medium has been deleted, updating the database to reflect that the first file has been deleted.

21. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising: means for synchronizing the database with a database on a device apart from the apparatus.

22. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the device is a handheld device.

23. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the device is an untethered, handheld device.

24. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the means for reading files from and/or writing files to a removable storage medium are at least one of a floppy disk drive, a CD ROM drive, a ZIP drive, and a DVD drive.

25. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the unique storage medium label is a bar code label.

26. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:
state information; and means for determining the unique volume label based on the state information.

27. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the state information is a count sequence.

28. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the database includes records, each record including a first field having a value associated with the unique volume label, and a second field having a value associated with a file stored on the removable storage medium.

29. (Previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:
means for reading a label associated with the storage medium without reading the storage medium;
means for accepting information read, by the means for reading, from a label associated with the storage medium;
means for converting the read label into a database key;

means for requesting records from a database instance using the database key;

means for accepting records in response to the request; and

means for rendering information about the accepted records.

30. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for reading is a bar code scanner, and wherein the unique storage medium label is a bar code.

31. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the information about the accepted records rendered includes file names.

32. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for rendering is a display.

33. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:

the database.

34. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising:

means for synchronizing the database with a database maintained by a separate machine which created the storage medium.

35. (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for matching file parameters with one or more external storage media, each of the one or more storage media having an associated label, the apparatus comprising:

a user input device for accepting at least one search parameter from a set, the set comprising: file size, file author, and file type;

a component configured to generate a query based on the accepted one or more search parameters;

a component configured to a record returned in response to the query generated;

a component configured to determine ~~at least one~~ a first label corresponding to the record; and

a component configured to determine an external storage medium, the <u>first</u> label being an affixed to an external portion of the storage medium, the first label being based on a second label, the second label being stored on a storage portion of the external storage medium.

36. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the <u>first</u> label is a machine-readable label, the apparatus further comprising:

a label reader for reading information read from the machine-readable label; and

an output means for generating a first indicator able to be perceived by humans in response to determining that the accepted information read from the machine-readable label matches information associated with the record.

37. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the output means further generates a second indicator able to be perceived by humans in response to determining that the accepted information read from the machine-readable label does not match information associated with the record.

38. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the output means is a speaker, wherein the first indicator is a first audible sound, and wherein the second indicator is a second audible sound.

39. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 35, wherein ~~each of the~~ the <u>first</u> label include<u>s</u> a human-readable part, and wherein information associated with the record corresponds to the human-readable part of the <u>first</u> label.

40. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label then the method further comprises:

generating a label based on the unique storage medium label, and

fixing the generated label to the storage medium without storing it on the storage

medium.

41. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:

means for, [[if]] in response to determining that the storage medium has not been

assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label, [[for]] generating a label

based on the unique storage medium label, and fixing the generated label to the storage medium

without storing it on the storage medium.

42. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 15, wherein the information rendered

is related to the label associated with the storage medium storing one or more files identified

with the record such that a user or a scanner can distinguish the storage medium including the

label from other storage media.

43. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

updating the database based on files deleted from the storage medium.